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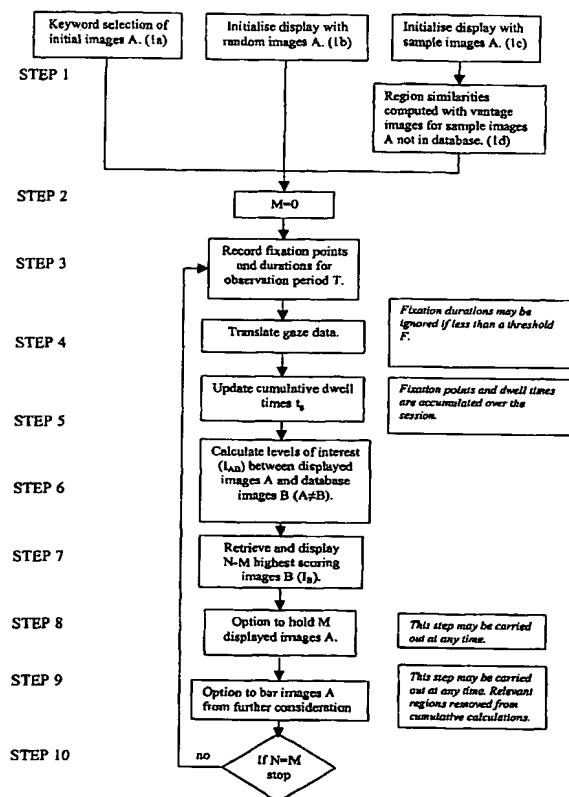
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SEARCHING IMAGES



(57) Abstract: A database of visual images includes metadata having, for a particular image, at least one entry specifying: a part of that image, another stored image, and a measure S_{abi} of the degree of similarity between that specified part and the specified other image. The searching method comprises displaying one or more images; receiving input from a user (for example by using a gaze tracker) indicative of part of the displayed images; determining measures of interest for each of a plurality of non-displayed stored images specified by the metadata for the displayed image(s), as a function of the similarity measure(s) and the relationship between the user input and the part specified; and, on the basis of these measures, selecting, from those non-displayed stored images, further images for display.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 G06F17/30

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G06F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, INSPEC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	<p>RUI Y ET AL: "RELEVANCE FEEDBACK: A POWER TOOL FOR INTERACTIVE CONTENT-BASED IMAGE RETRIEVAL"</p> <p>IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON CIRCUITS AND SYSTEMS FOR VIDEO TECHNOLOGY, IEEE INC. NEW YORK, US,</p> <p>vol. 8, no. 5,</p> <p>1 September 1998 (1998-09-01), pages 644-655, XP000779460</p> <p>ISSN: 1051-8215</p> <p>page 644, right-hand column, last paragraph - page 645, right-hand column, last paragraph</p> <p>page 646, left-hand column, paragraph 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-/--</p>	1-8

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☐ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	<p>YONG RUI ET AL: "A relevance feedback architecture for content-based multimedia information retrieval systems" CONTENT-BASED ACCESS OF IMAGE AND VIDEO LIBRARIES, 1997. PROCEEDINGS IEEE WORKSHOP ON SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO 20 JUNE 1997, LOS ALAMITOS, CA, USA, IEEE COMPUT. SOC, US, 1997, pages 82-89, XP010252107 ISBN: 0-8186-7981-6 the whole document</p>	1-8
X	<p>SMEULDERS A W M ET AL: "CONTENT-BASED IMAGE RETRIEVAL AT THE END OF THE EARLY YEARS" IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON PATTERN ANALYSIS AND MACHINE INTELLIGENCE, IEEE INC. NEW YORK, US, vol. 22, no. 12, December 2000 (2000-12), pages 1349-1380, XP001050971 ISSN: 0162-8828 page 1349, right-hand column page 1368, left-hand column, paragraph 3 - page 1369, right-hand column, paragraph 3</p>	1-8